

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS01919

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

<<<<.>>>>

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01919 01 OF 02 121257Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SYE-00 /012 W
-----121311Z 012084 /44

P 111810Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9542

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 1919

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, AR
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 3-11, 1977. THESE REPORTS ARE FRAGMENTARY AND CANNOT IN ALL CASES BE FURTHER CONFIRMED.

2. MAR. 4: REPORT ON URUGUAYAN RADIO STATION REPORTED THAT ON MAR. 4 AT 0440 HRS AT THE INTERSECTION OF FRANKLIN AND URQUIZA IN BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE, TWO MEN WERE OBSERVED PAINTING TERRORIST SLOGANS ON BUILDINGS WITH A THIRD ACTING AS A LOOKOUT. THEY WERE OBSERVED BY PROVINCIAL POLICE AND ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE AND WERE SHOT AND KILLED.

MAR. 4: AT 0100 HRS POLICE REPORTED THAT THE OCCUPANTS OF TWO VEHICLES OPENED FIRE AT THE POLICE STATION IN THIRD PRECINCT, LOCATED AT TUCUMAN ST. POLICE PERSONNEL ON DUTY RETURNED THE FIRE. ONE OF THE VEHICLES AVOIDED APPREHENSION. THE OCCUPANTS OF THE OTHER VEHICLE WERE ARRESTED.

AT 0130 HRS., THREE ARMED MEN IN A PEUGEOT 504
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as _____ ☐ Extend as _____ ☐ Downgrade
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01919 01 OF 02 121257Z

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS01919

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

WERE OBSERVED IN THE AREA OF THE AIR FORCE BUILDING.
WHEN SECURITY OFFICIALS APPROACHED THEM TO INTER-
ROGATE THEM THEY FLED AND WERE NOT APPREHENDED.

MAR. 6: POLICE REPORTED THAT THE OCCUPANTS OF A RENAULT
THREW A BOMB IN THE VICINITY OF SAN MARTIN PLAZA.
THEY ESCAPED AND THE BOMB WAS DEACTIVATED.

MAR. 7: POLICE REPORTED THAT A BOMB EXPLODED AT RODRIGUEZ
PENA NEAR M.T.DE ALVEAR. MUNICIPAL WORKERS WERE
REQUIRED TO ASSIST IN ATTEMPTING TO STABILIZE THE
BUILDING AS IT WAS IN DANGER OF COLLAPSING. OTHER
NEIGHBORING BUILDINGS WERE ALSO AFFECTED. THIS
BUILDING HOUSES THE "SUPERIOR INSTITUTION OF
RELIGIOUS TEACHING. ONLY MATERIAL DAMAGE WAS ONE.

AT 0140 HRS. AT LEOPOLDO LUGONES AND GRAL. PAZ
BUS TERMINAL, THREE PERSONS DRIVING A WHITE FORD
TORNADO OPENED FIRE ON POLICE PERSONNEL IN THE
AREA. THERE WERE NO INJURIES AND NO ONE WAS
APPREHENDED.

MAR. 8: LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SABOTAGE
OF THE LOCAL ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS PROVIDING
POWER TO THE PROVINCES. ON THE SAME DATE, PRESS
ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO ATTEMPTS ON
THE PREVIOUS DATE TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE RR LINES
FROM RETIRO STATION TO TIGRE AND BETWEEN BECAR AND
VICTORIA STATIONS. THIS ACT WAS COMMITTED BY
PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN. NO APPREHENSIONS REPORTED.

MAR. 9: FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED THAT SIX BRAZILIAN TOURISTS,
THREE MEN AND THREE WOMEN, WHILE TRAVELING IN A
VEHICLE WERE ACCOSTED BY CRIMINAL ELEMENTS APPROXI-
MATELY ONE STREET FROM GOVT HOUSE. TOURISTS
ATTEMPTED TO FLEE AND THE ASSAILANTS OPENED FIRE,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 01919 01 OF 02 121257Z

KILLING ONE WHO IS THE SON OF THE BRAZILIAN CONGEN
IN ARGENTINA. THERE WERE NO APPREHENSIONS IN THIS
CASE.

LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS01919

Page: 3
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

SET FIRE TO A TRAIN AT THE SARMIENTO RR STATION ON THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE TRAIN WAS ENROUTE FROM THE MORENO TO MISERERE STATION. THERE WERE NO APPREHENSIONS REPORTED.

ON THE SAME DATE, PRESS REPORTED THAT A POWERFUL BOMB EXPLODED IN FRONT OF A BRANCH OF THE BANCO NACION OF VILLA CRESPO LOCATED AT CORRIENTES AND ACEDEDO STS. THERE WAS ONLY MATERIAL DAMAGE. NO PERSONS WERE APPREHENDED.

OF SPECIAL NOTE IS A REPORTED CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TERRORISTS AND SECURITY FORCES IN MAR DEL PLATA, SITE OF U.N. WATER CONFERENCE, IN WHICH FOUR TERRORISTS, A WOMAN AND THREE MEN, WERE KILLED DURING AN EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE.

MAR. 10: POLICE REPORT THAT THREE MEN IN A PEUGEOT 504 WERE SEEN THROWING PAMPHLETS FROM THE VEHICLE AT GODOY CRUZ, BETWEEN HONDURAS AND GORRITI. THEY ESCAPED AFTER PURSUIT BY POLICE.

AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME, FOUR MEN ALSO IN A PEUGEOT LEFT SEVERAL PACKAGES, APPARENTLY BOMBS, ON THE STREETS IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA. A BOMB EXPLODED AT GODOY CRUZ AT A FACTORY. CAUSING MATERIAL DAMAGE. NO ONE WAS APPREHENDED.

3. ON MARCH 9, 1977, RSO MET WITH A MID-LEVEL CAREER POLICE OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN COUNTER-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. SOURCE STATED THAT THE MONTONERO THREAT

PAGE 04 BUENOS 01919 01 OF 02 121257Z

HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED AND THE ERP THREAT IS ALMOST TERMINATED. SOURCE STATED THAT THE MONTONEROS NOW ARE WORKING IN SMALL GROUPS WITH A MAXIMUM OF TEN PERSONS. THE GROUPS DO NOT HAVE CONNECTING LINKS.

NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS01919

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01919 02 OF 02 121305Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SYE-00 /012 W
-----121310Z 012150 /44
P 111810Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9543

[REDACTED] SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 1919

THEY DO NOT USE THEIR CORRECT NAMES BUT USE WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS "WAR NAMES". THE STRUCTURE INCLUDES INFORMANTS, GUNMEN AND BOSSES. PERSONS RECRUITED INTO THE ORGANIZATION COME IN FIRST AS INFORMANTS AND THEN BECOME GUNMEN, INVOLVED IN AN ACT OF KILLING, NORMALLY POLICE, AND THEN BASED ON KILLINGS WILL ADVANCE INTO POSITIONS OF UNIT LEADERSHIP. SOURCE STATED THAT AT PRESENT THE MONTONERO ELEMENTS ARE INVOLVED IN SPORADIC ATTACKS AGAINST POLICE AND SOME BOMB ATTACKS AT GOVT. TARGETS. THEY ARE USING WEAPONS STOLEN FROM THE POLICE OR THE MILITARY AND HAD IN THE PAST USED WEAPONS OF RUSSIAN DESIGN. SOURCE STATED THAT THEIR MONTONERO TRAINING AND INDOCTRINATION IS MOSTLY CUBAN AND THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED SOME FUNDS FROM ABROAD BUT MOST OF THEIR MONEY IS ACCUMULATED THROUGH BANK ROBBERIES AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

4. SOURCE STATED THAT THE POLICE AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNITS HAVE PENETRATED THE MONTONERO MOVEMENTS AND THAT WHEN THEY APPREHEND ONE MEMBER OF A CELL NORMALLY THE OTHERS WILL FLEE BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THE PERSON APPREHENDED WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS ASSOCIATES. THERE IS NO RETREAT FOR THE MONTONEROS; THEY HAVE NO SANCTUARY AND EVEN IF THEY WERE INVOLVED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES YEARS AGO, WHEN THEIR NAMES AND DESCRIPTION COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE, THEY WILL BE HUNTED DOWN. CONSEQUENTLY, MANY OF THE MONTONERO ELEMENTS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01919 02 OF 02 121305Z

ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. IN THIS THEY HAVE DIFFICULTY BECAUSE THERE ARE NO COUNTRIES WITH CONTIGUOUS BORDERS THAT WILL ACCEPT THEM. URUGUAY AND

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS01919

Page: 5

Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

CHILE HAVE STRONG POLICIES CONCERNING LEFTIST AND TERRORIST GUERRILLAS. SOURCE STATED THAT THEY CANNOT FLEE TO PARAGUAY BECAUSE PRESIDENT STROESSNER HAS EMBARKED ON A PROGRAM OF EXTERMINATING ALL TERRORIST ELEMENTS AND THIS PROGRAM IS BEING VIGOROUSLY FOLLOWED THROUGH.

5. SOURCE STATED THAT MONTONERO INFILTRATION OF POLICE WAS PREVIOUSLY QUITE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THE POLICE DID NOT DO SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THEIR RECRUITS. HOWEVER, NOW THEY CHECK THEM WITH GREAT CARE. SOURCE STATED THAT THE POLICE STILL REMAIN THE MAIN ENEMY OF THE MONTONEROS. THE POLICE KNOW THEY ARE THE PRINCIPLE TARGET. CONSEQUENTLY, POLICE OFFICERS TRAVEL TO AND FROM STATION HOUSES OUT OF UNIFORM. SOME OF THEM LET THEIR HAIR GROW LONG SO THAT THEY CANNOT EASILY BE IDENTIFIED AS POLICE. THE PREVIOUS MONTONERO TACTIC WAS TO TARGET A POLICE OFFICER AS HE LEFT HIS PRECINCT, FOLLOW HIM, SHOOT AND KILL HIM AND CAPTURE HIS WEAPON. THIS HAS BECOME MORE DIFFICULT RECENTLY. LAST YEAR OVER 70 PROVINCIAL POLICE OFFICERS WERE KILLED IN CONFLICTS WITH THE MONTONEROS. SO FAR THIS YEAR, APPROXIMATELY TEN HAVE BEEN KILLED, MOSTLY DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.

6. SOURCE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH LABOR ELEMENTS WOULD LIKE TO JOIN AND SUPPORT MONTONERO ELEMENTS THEY ARE AFRAID TO. LABORERS IN ARGENTINA ARE LIKE SHEEP AND NEED A LEADER. NO ONE WILL EMERGE AS A LEADER FOR FEAR OF BEING IDENTIFIED AND ELIMINATED BY THE GOVT. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF A MARRIAGE BETWEEN REMNANTS OF THE MONTONERO FORCES AND ORGANIZED LABOR. SOURCE STATED THAT HE IS VERY OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MONTONERO MOVEMENT AND THINKS BY THE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE 03 BUENOS 01919 02 OF 02 121305Z

END OF THE YEAR THEY WILL BE FINISHED. HE STATED THAT HE DOUBTS IF THE MONTONEROS HAVE THE BRAINS TO ORGANIZE A SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. HOWEVER, WE MUST BE CONTINUALLY ON THE WATCH BECAUSE THERE WILL STILL BE SPORADIC ACTS OF TERRORISM UNTIL THE MONTONERO SITUATION HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

7. SOURCE OF THIS REPORT STATED HE PERSONALLY HAS INTER-

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 5

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1977BUENOS01919

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 6
Channel: n/a

Case Number: 200000044

ROGATED NUMEROUS CAPTURED MONTONEROS AND KNOWS THAT CUBA
HAS BEEN THE TRAINING AND ORIENTATION CENTER FOR THIS
MOVEMENT.
HILL

[REDACTED]
NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 6

UNCLASSIFIED